



Arizona Department of Transportation

Public Transportation Division

MEMORANDUM

To: MPO and COG Directors

Date: 31 October 2006

From: Jim Dickey, Director, PTD

Subject: State Public Transportation Update

Hello MPO and COG Directors: Here is a Halloween update from the ADOT's Public Transportation Division:

SB1166 Stopping on State Highways: Draft Final guidance on the implementation plan for this new legislation will be available prior to November 15. After a 15 day period, the draft document will become Final. As a preview, the guidance includes explanation of the legislation, definitions, applications and some design criteria for implementation. Contact Jim Dickey for more information at 602 712 8137

State Railroad Assessment and Inventory: This project, in conjunction with R.L.Banks & Associates, is more than 80% completed at this time; work began in April 06. The document establishes a current baseline assessment of all of the state's current rail infrastructure, including condition, usage, and short-range plans...and represents a partnership between several state, regional, and local agencies and private sector rail operators. This is the 9th such report since 1978 and will be the baseline report for the MAG Commuter Rail Strategic Plan, upcoming state freight assessments, and a variety of other future studies. The final report will be completed in early spring. Contact Marc Pearsall at 602 712 8871.

State Rural Transit Needs Study: At the 50% milestone, Cambridge Systematics staff has completed much of the preliminary background data, peer study work, and initial surveying. ADOT Communications and Community Partnerships Division is providing additional stakeholder input support, which will begin in January 07. From that input, specific components of rural transit needs should become evident. Many of you have already been contacted by Cambridge to do a kickoff survey. Thanks for your help with that effort. Contact Jim Dickey for more information at 602 712 8137.

Arizona Rides: The next AzRides Council meeting will be November 30 at ADOT. At that time, we will finalize work on insurance issues, address a strategic plan recommendation for the Council, discuss the effort just now beginning on development of coordinated plans to meet JARC, New Freedoms, and some 5310 requirements, and present a draft of an annual summary report on Council and program efforts. Contact Gregg Kiely at 602 712 6736 or Steve Rost at 602 712 8018 for more information.

NTD Data Base for 5311: ADOT just completed its submittal for the reporting of 5311 projects in the National Transit Database. Thanks to each of you that contributed to this first round of new reporting requirements. Contact Mark Hoffman at 602 712 7454.

LTAFile: Thanks to all of you that worked diligently to review and submit applications for this year's record distribution of LTAFile. The requisition for distribution was made on 10/31, and the distribution to each city, town, county, and/or RPTA and PAG should be at the beginning of the week of November 7. Look for it! Contact Matt Carpenter at 602 712 6790 or Mark Hoffman at 602 712 7454

FTA 5310: Staff is working with FTA to approve the latest grant cycle. Contact Gregg Kiely at 602 712 6736.

FTA 5311: Staff is working with FTA to approve the latest grant cycle. Congrats to Lake Havasu City, which after 20 years of 100% demand response and reaching 138,000 rides per year, moved to a traditional fixed route system on October 30, 2006. The new service also comes with a new name, "Havasut Area Transit" or HAT. The slogan will be "Try our HAT on for size"! And similarly, to Sedona and Cottonwood for new service initiation in that area, including local circulator services in Sedona and connections to Cottonwood using Trolleys! Contact Sam Chavez at 602 712 7465.

Sierra Vista: The Sierra Vista Transit System was selected to receive the 2006 FTAs "Administrator's Award for Outstanding Public Service." This award was presented during the 17th National Conference on Rural Public & Intercity Bus Transportation, October 22-25, 2006, at the Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington. Way to be Mike and Steve!

ADOT PTD Personnel/Organization: PTD is now recruiting for the top administrative position in the Division with an "internal state" recruitment. The position is responsible for a variety of administrative functions including administration of HR, governmental agreements, purchasing and procurement admin. budget, and other items. We hope to have the position filled sometime close to the new calendar year. We still have a planning position to recruit early next calendar year.

State Management Review: As you probably know by now, ADOT- PTD completed it's Federal State Management Review and has since responded in answer to some questions concerning program administration. Contact Jim Dickey at 602 712 8137.

Statewide Ride Share Data Base: An IGA with several parties at the state, regional, and county level is nearly completed that will enable persons to utilize a data base to find a ride...first beginning in Maricopa, Pima, and Coconino counties, and soon thereafter to expand to other areas of the state. Look forward to completion of that effort sometime after January 1, 2007. Contact Marc Pearsall at 602 712 8871.

Other planning efforts upcoming: PTD is working on several other planning projects other than those highlighted above. Here's a short list:

- * Nogales Transit Feasibility and Implementation plan
 - * Graham County Feasibility and Implementation plan
 - * City of Maricopa
 - * Pinal County O/D study
 - * Queen Creek (service connections to Valley Metro)
- SATS (in partnership with TPD):
- * Benson, Douglas, Southern Greenlee County, Queen Creek, Florence/Coolidge, Gila County, Nogales, Page, San Luis

Conferences/Training/Meeting Update: Several important events are scheduled between now and the new year, including:

- * Maricopa County West Valley Transportation Summit, Avondale, 11/2
- * ADOT Board, Wilcox, 11/16-17
- * AzRides Council, ADOT, 11/30
- * ADOT Board, Tucson, 12/15

The ADOT PTD mission is to identify public transportation needs, and administer programs and resources to provide safe and reliable options for Arizona's communities. With your participation and help, we can do that. Don't hesitate to contact any of the PTD staff for information or direction in regard to your public transportation program needs. Check out our website at www.azdot.gov/ptd.

Thanks.....Jim Dickey